

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.942
H2-R11

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST FIRST GENERAL CROP

A radio discussion between Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, and E. J. Rowell, Agricultural Marketing Service, broadcast during the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Friday, August 11, 1939.

--oo0oo--

KADDERLY:

Yesterday afternoon at 3:00 the Department of Agriculture issued its General Crop Report covering crop conditions as of August first. The contents of this report are always anticipated with a great deal of interest, so in order that you may have the highlights, here's E. J. "Mike" Rowell, our regular reporter from the Agricultural Marketing Service. Mike, suppose you tell us first about general conditions, and then take up some of the specific commodities.

ROWELL:

O.K., Wallace. The lack of rainfall during July caused a big drop in the prospects for corn and other late crops over a lot of the northeastern and western areas. This lack of rainfall also dried out pastures and ranges. On the other hand, growing conditions were unusually favorable in the central and eastern Corn Belt and in much of the Cotton Belt. In these areas crop prospects showed some improvement.

From eastern Pennsylvania and eastern North Carolina westward to central Minnesota, western Iowa, and central Missouri, weather conditions have been exceptionally good for corn and some other late crops. But just west of this favored area, and particularly in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas there was a repetition of the unusually hot and dry July weather which has cut corn production in these states during nearly all of the last ten years.

KADDERLY:

General conditions better in some areas---not so good in others.

What about conditions in the country as a whole, Mike?

ROWELL:

They have dropped off slightly, but the change is small. Here, Wallace, you take this list. As you read the commodities, I'll comment on the size crop expected

KADDERLY:

All right, and we'll start with corn.

ROWELL:

A crop of about 2 billion 460 million bushels was indicated on August 1. That's about 100 million bushels less than was expected a month ago.

KADDERLY:

Wheat.

ROWELL:

A total crop of over 730 million bushels. An increase of nearly 15 million bushels in the last month.

(over)

KADDERLY:

Oats.

ROWELL:

Nearly 900 million bushels. An increase of 25 million in the past month.

KADDERLY:

Barley.

ROWELL:

An increase of about 5 percent in the last month.

KADDERLY:

Rye.

ROWELL:

Down about 2 percent from the July 1 estimate.

KADDERLY:

Now turning to fruit. What about apples?

ROWELL:

Larger than average supplies are expected in all regions except the South Central and Western States. For the country as a whole, that part of the crop sold as fresh fruit will probably be about 103 million bushels. That's about 5 million above the 10-year average.

KADDERLY:

Peaches.

ROWELL:

A slightly smaller crop than was expected on July 1, but still about 18 percent larger than last year's crop.

KADDERLY:

Pears.

ROWELL:

For the country as a whole, Wallace, about 31 million bushels of pears. That's a little less than last year. In Washington and Oregon pear production will probably be a little less than was expected on July 1. In California, however, the prospect is for a bigger crop than was expected a month ago.

KADDERLY:

Prunes and plums.

ROWELL:

The California crop of dry prunes will probably be about the same as last year, while production of plums in Michigan and California will be a little bigger than it was last year and will total close to 70,000 tons.

KADDERLY:

Potatoes.

ROWELL:

The conditions on August 1 indicate a crop of about 357 million bushels. That's 4 percent less than last year and also 4 percent below the 10-year average. In the State of Maine, growers expect high yields. But in Idaho the farmers report poor stands in practically all of the late commercial potato areas.

KADDERLY:

Tobacco.

ROWELL:

Putting all types of tobacco together, we will probably have a crop of about a billion 660 million pounds, which is about the same as was forecast on July 1. If we get this much tobacco, the crop will be about 20 percent bigger than it was last year.

KADDERLY:

And now what about hay? That's always important to a good many farmers the country over.

ROWELL:

Right now, Wallace, it looks as though the hay crop would be a little bigger than was expected on July 1, and some 5 percent bigger than the 10-year average. The hay crop is good in some sections, and not so good in other sections due to lack of rainfall.

KADDERLY:

One more commodity was covered by this report---eggs.

ROWELL:

Farmers report they were getting about 1 percent more eggs than a year ago and about 3 percent above the 10-year average. Reports from farmers tell us that they have about 3 percent more layers and about 6 percent more pullets not yet of laying age than they had a year ago.

KADDERLY:

Now just a word to sum it all up.

ROWELL:

The production of the principal food crops gives no sign of any shortage. It looks as though the supply of feed grains on farms and the supply of hay will not only be ample, but about 5 percent larger in relation to the number of livestock to be fed than during the average for the pre-drought period---that is, before 1934. However, that's based on national figures, and severe shortages of feed supplies are faced by farmers in some important sections.

KADDERLY:

Thanks, Mike, for these highlights. Farm and Home friends, if you would like more details on this August first General Crop Report you can get them by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Just ask for the General Crop Report.

###

